

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 18298 031555Z
ACTION CPR-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 L-03 /024 W
-----076117 040643Z /13

R 031545Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5130
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, ASEC, UR, US
SUBJECT: PARKING PROBLEMS OF SOVIET DIPLOMATS IN
WASHINGTON

1. AFTER DEALING WITH KAP ENTRY-EXIT POINTS ISSUE
(REPORTED SEPTTEL) DURING MEETING WITH ACTING POL
COUNSELOR ON AUGUST 2, MFA USA DIVISION COUNSELOR
ZAYTSEV RAISED SUBJECT OF THE PARKING DIFFICULTIES
SOVIET DIPLOMATS ARE ENCOUNTERING IN WASHINGTON.
THE SOVIET EMBASSY HAS MORE THAN ONCE REQUESTED
THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT FIND ENOUGH PARKING
PLACES FOR THE CARS OF SOVIET PERSONNEL, SAID ZAYTSEV.

2. THERE PRESENTLY IS NO RECIPROCITY IN THIS FIELD,
HE CONTINUED. IN MOSCOW, AMERICAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL
HAVE NO PARKING PROBLEM. BUT SOVIET DIPLOMATS IN
WASHINGTON ARE BEING TICKETED BY THE TENS EVERY
DAY. IT IS OFTEN ENRAGING WHEN THEIR CARS ARE
IMPOUNDED AND TOWED TO OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS, WHERE
THEY ARE HARD AND EVEN DANGEROUS TO FIND, EVEN IN
DAYLIGHT. THE OTHER DAY, FOR EXAMPLE, FIFTEEN
SOVIET CARS WERE TOWED AWAY, YET AMERICAN CARS
PARKED IN THE SAME AREA WERE LEFT UNMOLESTED.

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3. ZAYTSEV SAID HE HAD NO PAPER TO HAND OVER, AND
WAS NOT REGISTERING A FORMAL PROTEST. HOWEVER,
THE MFA REGARDED THIS AS A SERIOUS MATTER, AND
ASKED THAT IT BE SOLVED PROMPTLY. OUR BILATERAL
RELATIONS WERE DIFFICULT ENOUGH AS IT WAS. IF
THE PROBLEMS WERE NOT RESOLVED SOON, THE MFA WOULD

HAVE TO TAKE "APPROPRIATE MEASURES" IN MOSCOW.

4. ACTING POL COUNSELOR UNDERTOOK TO TRANSMIT ZAYTSEV'S ORAL REMARKS TO DEPARTMENT, NOTING THAT THE PROBLEM UNDOUBTEDLY WAS COMPLICATED BY THE WDC RUSH-HOUR TRAFFIC REGULATIONS, PLUS THE DOWNTOWN LOCATION OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY.

5. COMMENT: WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S ONCE AGAIN LOOKING INTO THIS LONG-STANDING PROBLEM. WHILE, AS DEPARTMENT IS WELL AWARE, WE HAVE A MULTITUDE OF OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS AT THE CHANCERY, PARKING HAS NOT RECENTLY BEEN ONE OF THEM. TOON

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